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AD HOC INFORMATION COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE ENERGY MARKET INFORMATION PROCEEDINGS

The Ad Hoc Information Committee

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PLEASE NOTE:

Revisions to this document were only made to the last "bullet" on page 6 of the original 6/12/98 Report. Please replace the revised page (attached) in your copy of the report and we apologize for the inconvenience.

The Committee concludes that there is ample authority for the Commission to move forward with rulemaking on data collection for the Commission's core energy industry monitoring and related policy-development functions under Public Resources Code Sections 25216 and 25216.5(d). There is also sufficient clarity with respect to our roles and responsibilities related to the Commission's electric industry monitoring and policy-development functions to move forward with changes, deletions, and revisions to regulation for data collection, analysis and dissemination in the rulemaking proceeding to commence this summer. The question of what specific data we will collect and from whom will be a primary focus of this rulemaking.

The Committee concludes that the Commission has ample authority to collect data from Energy Service Providers (ESPs) and Utility Distribution Companies (UDCs) and intends to include, where appropriate, ESPs and UDCs in data-collection regulations pursued through the rulemaking. The Committee concludes that ESPs and UDCs meet the definition of utilities under Section 25108 and are, therefore, subject to data-collection obligations. In addition, the Commission has authority to collect data from ESPs under provisions of Sections 25216 and 25216.5(d).

The Committee concludes there is sufficient authority to support a market facilitation and market transformation role for the Commission in the restructured electricity market. The Commission will continue to address issues associated with our appropriate role in facilitating and transforming electricity and other markets.

Policy Conclusions

The Committee concludes that the function a market participant performs in the market, regardless of the ownership or monopoly status of that entity, should define what data it supplies. Participants performing equivalent functions or delivering equivalent services should have equivalent data-submission responsibilities. This broad policy has guided past Commission data-collection efforts and should form the basis of data-collection activities and regulations for both demand-side and supply-side data in the electricity market.

The Committee concludes that AB 1890, SB 90, and SB 1305 confirm state policies that regulatory oversight in the restructured electricity market not be overly burdensome and not impede market forces that will guide the electricity market. The Committee fully intends to pursue data-collection methods in the rulemaking that are not overly burdensome and that embody a least-cost approach to data acquisition for data necessary to support the Commission's core functions.

The Committee concludes that the Commission should streamline its data collection activities where possible. The Committee's goal for this rulemaking is to

identify and develop the most efficient, equitable and cost-effective methods for getting the data we need to carry out our market monitoring and policy development responsibilities.